

servants dislike to wash diapers which have been left standing, and who can blame them? Where there is no laundress, I do them myself. If the patient will provide an agate pail and a tiny wash-board, the washing can be done in the bath-room and the boiling on the kitchen stove, with no trouble to any one. If put on to boil in cold water, there will be no stains. I usually give the baby's flannels to the washer-woman to do, as she has better facilities for doing them, and knows how to keep them soft better than I do.

To wheel a baby carriage through city streets is a most monotonous and tiresome occupation. I would far rather wash diapers, but I never refuse to do it, if the mother of the baby wishes me to take it out, for I see so many carriages bumped about by careless nurse-maids, or turned toward the sun or wind, that I think the poor babies should be in the care of the best available person. In the country, in summer, especially where there are large grounds for the baby's use, it is a delight to be out with it.

The only time I envy nurses of other schools their out-door uniforms is when I see one out with a baby, for she is secure from friendly advances from nurse-maids. Some of these I am glad to know, but they are not the ones who hail a passing stranger with a carriage as one of their own gossiping craft.

K. D.,
Chicago.

DEAR EDITOR: I think our private nurses are prone to shirk answering questions and papers that appear in the *JOURNAL*, each one thinking, I suppose, that one more competent and less busy will take it upon herself to answer them.

In reply to "Yearling" in the March *JOURNAL*, I would say that while I have done only a limited amount of obstetrical work in eight years of nursing, I have always found it more satisfactory to attend to the washing of the baby's flannels myself unless quite sure that the servant could and would do it properly.

I think a servant should do the napkins. I have never wheeled the baby out myself. It seems to me better to let a servant do that. Of course, if there were no servant I should do it myself. It has been my observation, however, that many obstetrical nurses do wheel the baby out, and in uniform.

Speaking of going out in uniform, I wonder why intolerance is such a common fault of nurses, who of all people should cultivate a spirit of tolerance? A recently read article on the subject of a nurse going on the street in uniform would lead one to suppose that under

no circumstances whatever was it pardonable. Of course, it is not the correct or desirable thing to do, but there are frequently cases when if a nurse did not take her few moments of outing in uniform she could not take them at all.

And while in a dissenting mood, I wonder why some things are done in training-schools that, from a common-sense standpoint, seem rather absurd? For instance, in one school of which I have been told, the nurse provides a complete probation outfit,—uniforms, aprons and cuffs in abundance, which at end of probation period are all discarded, not even the aprons and cuffs used, although there is only the slightest difference in the way they are made. In one instance of a nurse who is making a splendid record in the school, it was really a hardship to her family to provide the quantity of uniforms required. It seems as if some of the unnecessary labor and expense might be avoided.

In the same school the nurses are not allowed to speak to internes. If an interne enters a parlor where a nurse is with a visitor the nurse is required to leave the room. Among a class of young women such as nurses are supposed to be, such rules seem rather out of place.

In a very excellent school where seniors did outside work at the time, the rule was made that no nurse should drive with a coachman unless some member of the family were along. Some nurse had stooped to flirt with a coachman and the rest of the school were made to suffer with her. Naturally there was great indignation.

I have digressed from original purpose and sound very critical. My attitude toward nurses and training-schools is not critical, however.

V. V. H.,
Madison, Ga.

DEAR EDITOR: For some months past, I have been an interested reader of the articles in which nurses have been criticised for not responding to the call for nurses for the Army Reserve Corps, also in some of the answers which have appeared in the late JOURNALS.

First, I must admit that, to the general public, it may look like indifference or lack of patriotism, but that it really is, I most emphatically deny. The busy nurse is apt to put off the complicated and troublesome preliminaries that are required, when she does not see any signs of really being needed. perhaps not in years, possibly never.

As for the ex-army nurse, she may have her reasons for not offering her services. Of the many whom I know, there is not one whose loyalty and patriotism can be doubted, nor who would not willingly go anywhere where she needed.